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# FARM FAMILY LIVING

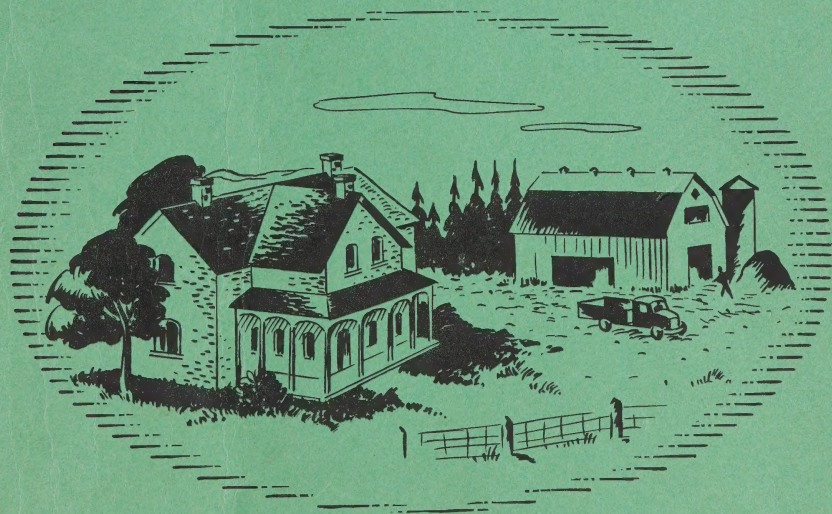
IN

*Lanark County*

ONTARIO

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1947 - 1948








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# FARM FAMILY LIVING IN LANARK COUNTY, ONTARIO, 1947-48

M.A. MacNaughton, J.M. Mann and M.B. Blackwood

## INTRODUCTION

The Economics Division of the Dominion Department of Agriculture has been carrying on a number of studies of farm family living in various parts of Canada <sup>1/</sup> with the objectives of examining numerous aspects of farm family living and determining the level of living attained by farm families. It is hoped that these studies may bring to both farm and urban families a better understanding of the way of life of farm families in specific areas of Canada. The information presented in these reports should also be of value to extension workers, social workers, community leaders and to other persons or organizations working with farm families. This report presents the results of a survey of farm family living in Lanark County, Ontario.

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1/ Edwards, F.M., Farm Family Living in the Prairie Provinces, Publication 787, Technical Bulletin 57, Economics Division, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, Ontario, 1947.  
MacNaughton, M.A. and Andall, M.E., Changes in Farm Family Living in Three Areas of the Prairie Provinces, from 1942-43 to 1947, Publication 815, Technical Bulletin 69, Economics Division, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, Ontario, 1949.  
Farm Family Living in Southeastern Saskatchewan, 1947-48, Economics Division, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, Ontario, (to be published).  
Farm Family Living in Nicolet County, Quebec, 1947-48, Economics Division, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, Ontario, (to be published).



## DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA

Lanark County is situated in Eastern Ontario. The Rideau River forms the southern boundary of the county and the northern corner of the county reaches almost to the Ottawa River. The location of Lanark County is indicated in Figure 1.

For the most part, the county has shallow limestone soil over bedrock but a few small areas have deeper soil. There are some gravelly ridges on the higher locations, and swamps occur in the depressions. The annual rainfall is about 30 inches.

The first settlers moved into this area about 1816 but because much of the land was submarginal, yielding only a subsistence, there has been considerable farm abandonment and an increase in the size of farms. Much of the land is used only for pasture. A mixed type of farming predominates in the county; livestock and milk are the most important products of the farms. ✓  
In the more heavily wooded areas farmers supplement their incomes with the sale of wood and maple syrup.





Figure 1. - Location of Lanark County in Eastern Ontario.



## METHOD OF STUDY

In the summer of 1948, 115 farm families were visited in Lanark County. The enumerators interviewed the housewives in these 115 families and recorded the answers to a variety of questions regarding the composition of the households, the expenditures for family living, the surroundings, structure and finish of the homes, the possession of numerous material and cultural acquisitions, the availability of community facilities, the use of spare time, the extent of participation in social organizations and the attitudes of the housewives toward farm life. The answers to these questions are summarized in this report.

An attempt was made in this study to make use of a modification of area sampling techniques. Limitations in time, money, and personnel required that the sample be restricted to approximately 100 families. Since a sample of this size, chosen at random throughout the whole county, would necessitate a great deal of travelling, it was decided that the sample should be drawn from only certain townships in the county. Out of the 14 townships in the county six were statistically selected in such a way that the probability of choosing any particular township was proportional to its size in terms of the number of farms in



the township as indicated in the 1941 Census. The townships selected by this means were Bathurst, Dalhousie, Drummond, Lanark, Pakenham and Sherbrooke North as indicated in Figure 2.

Clusters of farm houses were selected at random in each of the six townships. A map indicating the location of each house was used for this purpose. Information was obtained concerning the farm families occupying 115 of these homes.

Owing to the small size of the sample, statistically reliable estimates could not be made regarding many of the aspects of family living of all farm families in Lanark County. The information presented in this report, therefore, pertains only to the 115 farm families who were visited.

#### DESCRIPTION OF THE FAMILIES

Ninety-one per cent of the heads of the 115 families were of British origin and 92 per cent of the housewives were of the same origin. Ninety-five per cent of the farm operators and 94 per cent of the housewives were born in the province of Ontario.

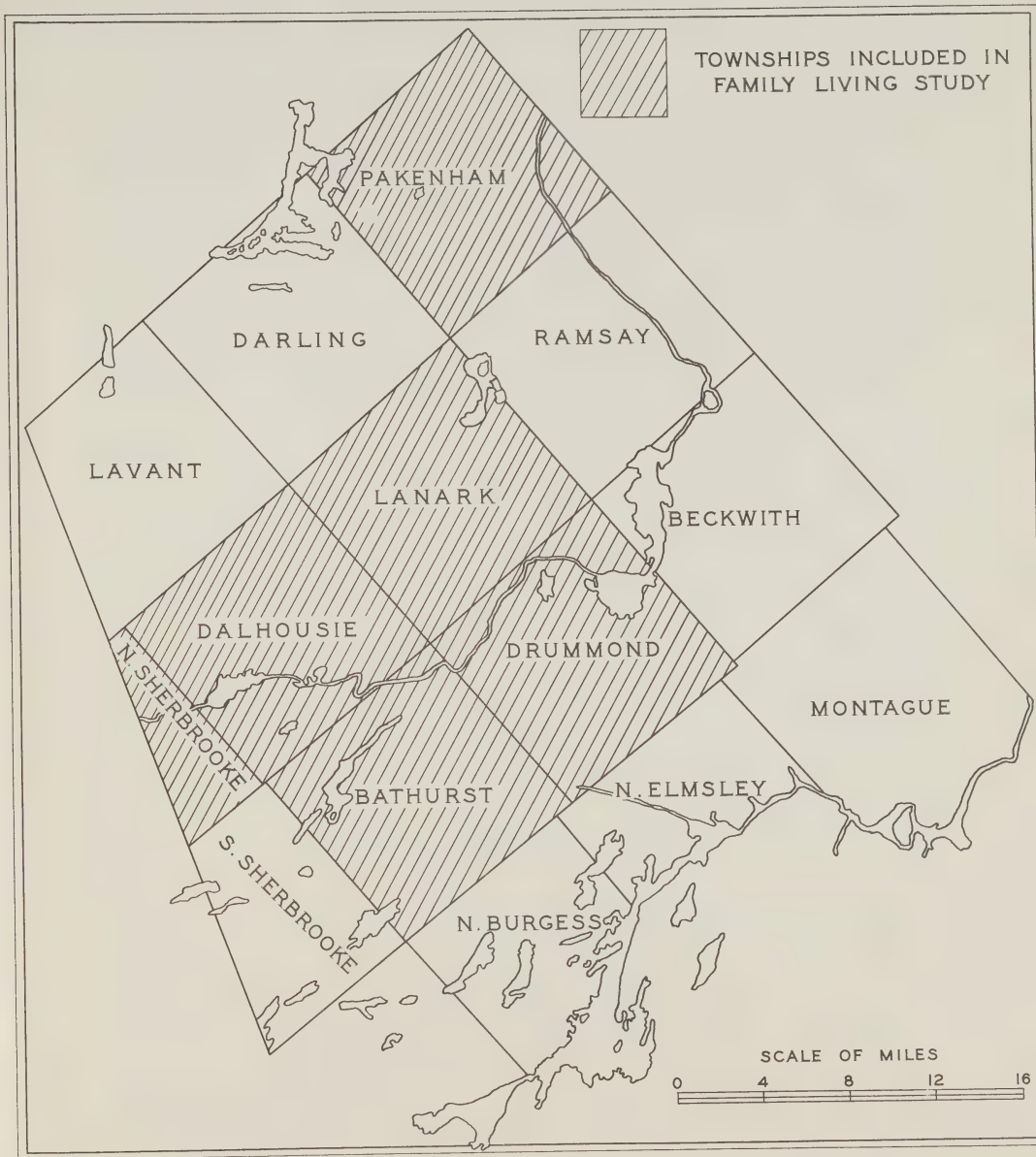


Figure 2. - Lanark County, Ontario.





The average age of the farm operators was 46 years. Only 12 per cent were under 30 years of age and only 15 per cent were 60 years old or older. Only 87 of the 115 housewives reported their ages; their average age was 43 years.

The 115 families averaged four persons per family. Twenty-four per cent of the families were not supporting any children. The remaining families had an average of 2.17 dependent children per family.

The housewives had received more formal education than their husbands. Eighty-five per cent of the housewives had at least a grade eight education although 51 per cent of them had not gone beyond that grade. Only 15 per cent of the housewives had less than a grade eight education. Fourteen per cent of their husbands had gone beyond grade eight and 65 per cent had completed only eight grades; twenty-one per cent had less than a grade eight education.

#### EXPENDITURES FOR FAMILY LIVING

In order to determine family living expenditures during the twelve-month period extending from July, 1947 to June, 1948, the enumerators recorded all the various cash expenditures which had been made for family living by the 115 housewives interviewed.

The goods and services provided by the farms were also itemized and their values estimated. Total expenditures for family living averaged \$2,018 per family. The distribution of these expenditures is presented graphically in Figure 3.

Farm-Furnished Goods and Services.- The goods and services which the farms provided made a significant contribution to family living. Most of the farms provided food, fuel and shelter which did not require a direct cash outlay. It was estimated that average cash expenditures would have been increased by \$676 per family if these goods and services had not been available. This non-cash expenditure, therefore, amounted to 33 per cent of the average total living expenditure.

Farm-furnished food was the most important item which did not require a cash outlay. Food products such as, meat, poultry, eggs, dairy products, fruits and vegetables produced on the farms and consumed during the year were valued at an average of \$403 per family. It will be noted in Figure 3 that the total outlay for food (cash plus non-cash) averaged \$823 per family. Non-cash expenditures for food, therefore, accounted for 49 per cent of total expenditures for food.

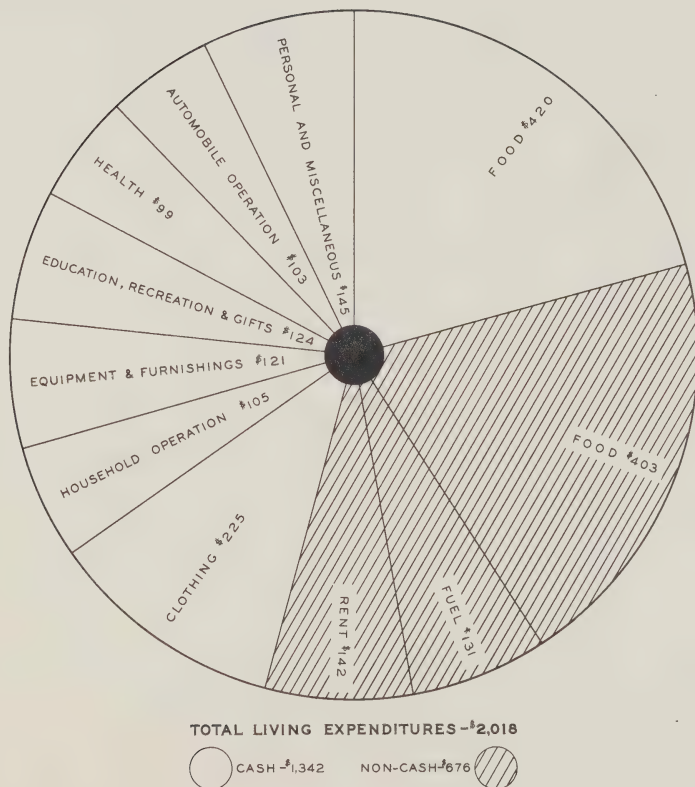


Figure 3. - Distribution of Total Living Expenditures





The use of the farm house was given an average value of \$142 per family. This was also an important non-cash expenditure. The rental value of the house was considered because its use contributed to the value of family living even though a cash expenditure for rent was not required.

A third item which did not require a cash expenditure was farm-furnished fuel. Ninety-five per cent of the families obtained at least part of their firewood from their farms. Farm-furnished fuel was assigned an average value of \$131 per family.

Food, Clothing and Household Operation.— Although 49 per cent of the value of all food consumed during the year was farm-produced, cash outlays for food averaged \$420 per family. These expenditures amounted to 31 per cent of total cash living expenses which averaged \$1,342 per family. A comparatively large cash outlay was also made for clothing. Expenditures for clothing averaged \$225 per family and accounted for 17 per cent of total cash living expenditures. Household operation expenditures for such items as lighting, <sup>1/</sup> telephone service, purchased fuel, paint and cleansers averaged \$105 per family or eight per cent of their total cash expenditures. Altogether, the expenses for food, clothing and household operation amounted to 56 per cent of total cash expenditures for family living.

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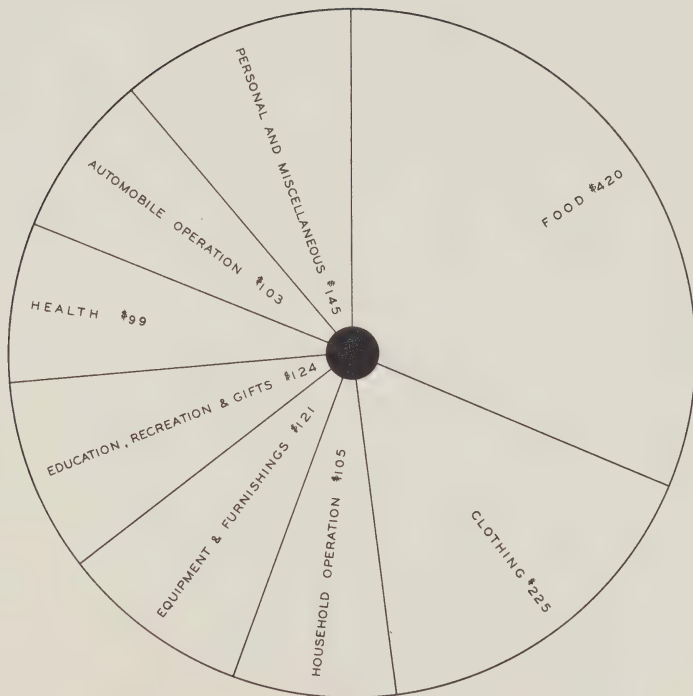
<sup>1/</sup> Only one-half of the telephone expense was charged to family living; the remainder was considered to be a farm business expense.

The distribution of total cash living expenditures is presented in graphic form in Figure 4.

Equipment and Furnishings.- Every family purchased some equipment or furnishings during the year. Forty-seven per cent of the families had made expenditures of more than \$100. For all families, total expenditures for equipment and furnishings averaged \$121 per family or nine per cent of total cash living expenditures. Expenditures for equipment, averaging \$70 per family, were larger than the expenditures for furnishings which averaged \$51. Forty-six per cent of the outlay for equipment was for large items, such as stoves and washing machines.

Education, Recreation, and Gifts.- Expenditures for education varied markedly in different families. Apart from expenditures for books, magazines and newspapers many families had no outlays for education. Only 19 families reported any expenditures for the education of children who were attending a local school and most of these expenditures were less than \$20 per family. The families that had children attending school away from home had larger expenditures. There were 11 families in this group and their expenditures averaged \$126 per family. Every family had expenditures for magazines, newspapers or books; the average expenditure was \$13. For all families the total outlay for education averaged \$30 per family.





TOTAL CASH LIVING EXPENDITURES - \$1,342

Figure 4. - Distribution of Total Cash Living Expenditures



Outlays for recreation also varied considerably. Most of the families had attended picture shows, concerts, or other social events. Expenditures for such purposes averaged \$16 per family. Only 26 per cent of the families had taken a vacation and only 14 per cent of the families had spent more than \$15 for this purpose. On the average, total expenditures for recreation were \$32 per family.

Donations to churches and charities, and expenditures on gifts and weddings averaged \$62 per family. These expenditures equalled the combined expenditures for education and recreation. Total expenditures for education, recreation and gifts and donations to churches and charities averaged \$124 per family thus accounting for nine per cent of total cash living expenditures.

Health.- Nearly every family had purchased some drugs, medicines or medical supplies during the year. The average outlay of the families reporting such expenditures was \$12. Sixty-three per cent of the families had doctor bills; these averaged \$43 per family. Only 26 per cent of the families had hospital bills; their average expenditure was \$93. Seventy-one per cent of the families had expenditures for dental work. The average expenditure of these families for this purpose was \$17. Outlays in connection with spectacles or eye examinations had been made by 22 per cent of the families; their average outlay was \$18 per family.

Forty-seven per cent of the families had health or accident insurance and these families spent an average of \$41 for this purpose. For all families, the average outlay on health was \$99 or seven per cent of total cash living expenditures.

Automobile Operation.- Ninety-five per cent of the families owned either an automobile or a truck or both; 90 per cent owned an automobile, three per cent owned a truck and two per cent owned both an automobile and a truck. Although only one-half of the automobile operating expenses and one-quarter of the truck operating expenses were considered to be a part of family living expenditures, these expenses averaged \$103 per family or <sup>1/</sup>eight per cent of total cash living expenditures.

Personal and Miscellaneous.- Personal expenditures for such items as toilet articles, tobacco, meals away from home and other personal items and services averaged \$69 per family. Miscellaneous expenditures for life insurance, annuities and various other items averaged \$75 per family. Sixty per cent of the families carried some life insurance; their average expenditure for this purpose was \$92. Together, total expenditures for personal and miscellaneous items averaged \$145 per family or 11 per cent of total cash living expenditures.

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<sup>1/</sup> The remaining automobile and truck operating expenses were considered to be farm business expenditures.

Expenditure Patterns.- Although the total living expenditures of the 115 families averaged \$2,018 per family there was considerable variation in the total expenditures of individual families. Twenty-five per cent of the families had total expenditures which were less than \$1,500 while 20 per cent of the families had expenditures of \$2,500 or more. Table 1 presents a distribution of the families by expenditure groups.

Table 1.- Distribution of 115 Families by  
Expenditure Groups

Total Living Expenditures	:	Families	
		number	per cent
dollars	:		
999 or less	:	5	4
1000 - 1499	:	24	21
1500 - 1999	:	31	27
2000 - 2499	:	32	28
2500 - 2999	:	15	13
3000 or more	:	8	7
Total	:	115	100

As the total living expenditures of this group of 115 families increased from less than \$1,000 to more than \$3,000 some significant changes occurred in their expenditures for various goods and services. It will be noted in Table 2 that the proportion of total living expenditures allocated to food decreased as total living expenditures ✓



Table 2.- Distribution of Expenditures for  
Family Living, Classified by  
Expenditure Groups

Total Living Expenditures	Food	Clothing	Household Operation	Furnishings: and Equipment	Education Recreation and Gifts	Health:	Personal and Mis- cellaneous:	Total
dollars			a/	- per cent -				
999 or less	54	5	29	1	4	4	3	100
1000 - 1499	45	10	26	4	5	4	6	100
1500 - 1999	39	10	27	7	6	4	7	100
2000 - 2499	43	12	23	6	5	5	6	100
2500 - 2999	37	12	23	7	8	6	7	100
3000 or more	39	12	19	6	7	6	11	100

a/ Includes expenditures for automobile operation.

increased. Although this decrease is not consistent the trend is apparent. The families with total expenditures of \$999 or less allocated 54 per cent of their total expenditures for food but the food purchases of the families having total expenditures of \$3,000 or more amounted to only 39 per cent of their total expenditures. The proportion of total expenditures required for household operation also decreased as total living expenditures increased.

The families who had the highest living expenditures were able to allocate a greater proportion of their total expenditures for clothing, furnishings and equipment, education, recreation and gifts, health and personal and miscellaneous items than the families who had the lowest living expenditures.

#### FARM HOMES

Most of the homes of the farm families in Lanark County are large and well constructed. Thirty-three per cent of the homes of the 115 families included in the survey were built of stone or brick. Twenty-nine per cent were of frame construction, either painted or finished with stucco or brick veneer. A further 34 per cent were also of frame construction but were unpainted. The remaining four per cent were built of logs. On the average, the houses had 5.5 rooms. One or more rooms per family member was thereby provided by 87 per cent of the homes.

It was evident that many of the families took pride in their home surroundings. Sixty-five per cent of the families had a flower garden and sixty-eight per cent of the homes had a shelterbelt of natural or planted trees. The homes of 82 per cent of the families were separated from the barnyards by a fence. Very few of the homes had entrance walks or ornamental hedges.

Ninety-nine per cent of the homes had a basement; 83 per cent had either full or part basements with concrete or stone walls and floors. The remaining 16 per cent had basements which were only bare excavations. Seventy-nine per cent of the homes were equipped with storm windows for at least some of the windows. Thirty-one per cent were heated by a furnace or space heater in the basement. The majority, 60 per cent, were heated by a space heater which was installed in one of the rooms. The kitchen stove was the only means of heating nine per cent of the homes.

Fifty-three per cent of the homes had a separate dining room and 85 per cent had a living room in addition to a kitchen. Sixty-three per cent had some clothes closets. Fifty-eight per cent had hardwood flooring throughout all or part of the house. Of the remainder, 31 per cent had softwood flooring and 11 per cent had rough board floors. The majority of the kitchen floors, 78 per cent, were covered with linoleum but 10 per cent of the kitchen

floors were unfinished. Fifty-one per cent of the living room floors also were covered with linoleum. Only 11 per cent of the homes had a rug on the living room floor. The remainder had painted, varnished or waxed living room floors. For the most part the living room walls were well finished; 92 per cent were plastered or finished with plasterboard which was either painted or wallpapered. All of the woodwork in 94 per cent of the homes was either painted or varnished.

Only 31 per cent of the homes had electric lighting. Gasoline or kerosene mantle lamps were used in 37 per cent of the homes and 32 per cent were lighted by wick lamps only.

The majority of the families, 76 per cent, obtained water for household use from a well by means of a hand pump. Fifteen per cent had windmills or engines for pump operation. Only four per cent of the families had running water in their homes; five per cent drew water from their wells by means of a rope and pulley. Seventy-one per cent of the homes had cisterns for the collection of rain water for laundry purposes. There were kitchen sinks in 69 per cent of the homes; 91 per cent of these sinks were equipped with drain pipes. Only 12 per cent of the homes had a bathtub or shower installed and only three per cent had flush toilets.

Most of the housewives had washing machines. Forty-seven per cent had power operated machines and 42 per cent had hand operated machines. Eleven per cent of the housewives did the washing by hand. Very few homes had refrigeration facilities. Only seven per cent of the homes had mechanical refrigeration; ten per cent had ice boxes or ice wells but the remaining 83 per cent of the homes had no refrigeration facilities.

#### LEVEL OF LIVING

The level of living or socio-economic status of families is judged by their friends and neighbors not only in terms of their spending habits but also in terms of their material and cultural possessions. For this reason a study of the expenditure patterns of the 115 families included in the study was not sufficient for the determination of the living levels of these families. Although total living expenditures may be very similar for a number of families there may be marked differences in their levels of living owing to important differences in the preferences of individual families and in the management of funds allocated to family living. Moreover, the expenditures of individual families may vary from year to year because of changes in economic conditions. The expenditures for one year, therefore, do not adequately reflect levels of



living. The material and cultural possessions which families have acquired over a period of time are more accurate indicators of living levels since possessions which are acquired during one year are reflected in living levels even in years when expenditures for living may be low.

In a previous study which was carried out in the prairie provinces a scale was devised for measuring levels of living of 622 farm families.<sup>1/</sup> In order to construct this scale, an extensive inventory was taken of the material and cultural possessions such as, equipment, furnishings, musical instruments and books in the homes of the 622 families. The inventory items were tested statistically in order to determine which items differentiated between living levels. Items which were possessed by all families or by very few were eliminated because they did not serve this purpose. Twenty-seven items proved to be statistically significant and these were retained for the level of living scale.<sup>2/</sup> All of these items were given equal weight. The level of living of a family as measured by this scale was indicated by a score out of a possible total of 27.

This scale has been used to measure the levels of living of the 115 families included in this study. A distribution of these families by level of living score is presented in Table 3. Twenty

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<sup>1/</sup> MacNaughton and Andal, op. cit., p. 46.

<sup>2/</sup> A list of these items is presented in the Appendix, pp. 29-31.

per cent of the families had scores of less than 15 but 42 per cent had scores of more than 20. The average level of living score of all families was 18.6.

Table 3.- Distribution of 115 Families by Level of Living Score Groups

Level of Living Score	Families	
	number	per cent
0 - 4	1	1
5 - 9	3	3
10 - 14	18	16
15 - 19	44	38
20 - 24	37	32
25 - 27	12	10
Total	115	100

There was a significant relationship between levels of living and expenditures for food. This information is presented in Table 4. As the levels of living of the families increased, the proportion of total cash expenditure required for the purchase of food decreased. The families who had a level of living score less than ten allocated 39 per cent of their total cash expenditures for the purchase of food but the families who had a score of more than 25 allocated only 26 per cent of their total cash expenditures for food purchases.

Table 4.- Percentage of Total Cash Living Expenditures  
Required for Food, Classified by Level  
of Living Score Groups

Level of Living Score	:	Cash Expenditures for Food
	:	per cent
0 - 9	:	39
10 - 14	:	36
15 - 19	:	31
20 - 24	:	32
25 - 27	:	26

#### COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES

Most community facilities and services were readily available to the 115 farm families included in the survey. Although a few of the families were more than 20 miles from some facilities and services, distance was not a very important factor because the majority of the families owned an automobile or a truck and good roads were available. Eighty-five per cent of the homes were located adjacent to a gravel road; the average distance of all homes from a gravel road was only 0.13 miles. The availability of certain facilities and services is summarized in Table 5.

Table 5.- Average Distance of Farm Homes From  
Various Facilities and Services

Facility or Service	Distance
	miles
Gravel road	0.13
Grade school	1.4
Post office <sup>a/</sup>	2
Community hall	3
Church	3.2
Swimming place	4
Doctor	8
Dentist	9
Shipping point	9
Cold storage locker	9
High school	9
Optometrist	10
Theatre	12
Source of "good" clothes	12
Hospital	13
City	55

<sup>a/</sup> Eighty-six per cent of the homes were located on a rural mail delivery route. The remaining 14 per cent of the homes were an average of two miles from a post office.

Grade schools were within walking distance of all of the homes. The average distance of the homes from a grade school was 1.4 miles. High schools were farther away; the average distance to a high school was nine miles. Only ten per cent of the homes were more than 15 miles from a high school. The homes were also close to churches; the average distance to a church was 3.2 miles. Only 13 per cent of the homes were more than five miles from a church.

The services of a doctor were available to all families but some families were closer to a doctor than others. On the average, the homes were eight miles from a doctor but 17 per cent were more than ten miles from a doctor. Hospitals were somewhat farther away. The average distance of all homes from a hospital was 13 miles but 13 per cent were more than 20 miles from this facility.

#### RECREATION AND SOCIAL PARTICIPATION

The families who were visited reported that they spent much of their spare time in their homes, listening to their radios, reading, or entertaining their neighbors. Many families took part in community organizations and nearly every family enjoyed other forms of recreation such as picnics, country fairs and concerts.

Recreation in the Home.- The majority of the families, 86 per cent, owned a radio and they considered that this was an important source of entertainment and information. News reports and weather forecasts were listened to most frequently, then musical programmes, dramas, and farm information programmes in that order.

Only 53 per cent of the housewives reported that they spent an average of four or more hours a week reading and only 50 per cent of the household heads devoted this much time to reading. Most of the family reading was confined to newspapers and other



periodicals. Ninety-five per cent of the families were receiving at least one weekly newspaper and 23 per cent were subscribing to a daily newspaper. Forty per cent of the families were receiving one or more magazines.

Although 66 per cent of the families reported that library facilities were available to them only 11 per cent stated that they obtained books from a library. Twelve per cent of the families did not have any books in their homes; 50 per cent had less than 50 books and only 18 per cent had from 50 to 100 books.

Hobbies occupied the spare time of the members of some of the families. Twenty-nine per cent of the housewives had a hobby and 16 per cent of the household heads had a hobby. At least one member in 50 per cent of the families played a musical instrument.

Nearly every family had entertained visitors during the year. Forty-two per cent of the families had entertained visitors on more than 20 occasions and a further 52 per cent had entertained visitors less than 20 times. Only six per cent of the families had not entertained any visitors in their homes. Most of the families had visited the homes of other families also. Twenty per cent of the families had visited away from home more than 20 times and 68 per cent had visited away from home less than 20 times; 12 per cent had not visited the homes of any other families during the year.

Participation in Organizations.- Although there were many organizations in the communities in which the 115 families were located, 38 per cent of them did not participate in any organization. At least one family member in the remaining 62 per cent of the families belonged to one or more organizations and many of them held executive positions. In 46 per cent of the families the housewife was a member of an organization and the household heads of 39 per cent of the families belonged to an organization. Only ten per cent of the families had a son who was a member of an organization and only six per cent had a daughter who was a member. More housewives belonged to church groups or to the Women's Institute than to any other organizations. Fraternal organizations and the Federation of Agriculture attracted more of the household heads than any other organizations.

Other Activities.- Only three per cent of the 115 families had not attended church during the year. Fifty-three per cent of the families had attended more than 20 times; 10 per cent had attended from 12 to 20 times and 34 per cent had attended less than 12 times. In most cases the whole family attended church at the same time.

Picnics were a popular form of entertainment; 84 per cent of the families had attended such outings during the year. All but 12 per cent of the families had attended at least one fair. Picture shows, concerts, dances and athletic events were

also popular with most families. Seventy per cent of the families had attended picture shows, 69 per cent had attended concerts and at least one member of 64 per cent of the families had attended dances. The majority of the families who had attended these functions did so less than 12 times during the year. Athletic events were attended by at least one member of 43 per cent of the families. Only 23 per cent of the families participated in farm forum groups or attended educational meetings of any kind.

#### ATTITUDES TOWARD FARM LIFE

The housewives who were interviewed were questioned as to whether they liked living on a farm. Although a number of housewives felt that there was too much hard work associated with farm life, many of them were of the opinion that farm life would be greatly improved if additional conveniences such as electricity, electrical appliances and plumbing were available in their homes. Only seven per cent of the housewives, however, stated that they were dissatisfied with farm life and that they would rather live in an urban centre. The remainder of the 75 housewives preferred farm life despite its drawbacks because they believed that the advantages of farm life outweighed the disadvantages. Many of these women were of the opinion that a farm was a better place than a town or city for bringing up children and that farm life offered security which could not be found elsewhere. They felt that they were less dependent on cash income than urban families because a large part of the food for their families could be produced on the farm

## SUMMARY

In the summer of 1948, 115 farm families were visited in Lanark County, Ontario. Nearly all of the household heads were born in Ontario; their average age was 46 years. On the average, there were four persons per family; only 24 per cent of the families were not supporting any children. The majority of the housewives and household heads had completed at least grade eight but most of the housewives had received more formal education than their husbands.

The total living expenditures of the 115 families averaged \$2,018 during the twelve-month period extending from July, 1947 to June, 1948. The goods and services such as, food, fuel and shelter which the farms provided were valued at an average of \$676 per family. One-third of their total living expenditures, therefore, did not involve a direct cash outlay. Almost one-third, 31 per cent, of the total cash expenditures which averaged \$1,342 per family was spent on food, 17 per cent on clothing, eight per cent on household operation, nine per cent on furnishings and equipment, nine per cent on education, recreation, and gifts, seven per cent on health, eight per cent on automobile operation and 11 per cent on personal and miscellaneous items. The families who had the highest expenditures

allocated a smaller proportion to food and a larger proportion to other items for family living than the families who had the lowest living expenditures.

The majority of the homes of the 115 families were large and well constructed; 33 per cent were built of stone or brick and 63 per cent were of frame construction. The homes had an average of 5.5 rooms and thereby provided one or more rooms per person in 87 per cent of the families. All but one home had a basement; 83 per cent of the basements had either concrete or stone walls and floors. Thirty-one per cent of the homes had a furnace or space heater in the basement and 79 per cent had storm windows.

Thirty-one per cent of the homes had electric lighting and 37 per cent were lighted by gasoline or kerosene mantle lamps but wick lamps were still being used exclusively in 32 per cent of the homes.

The majority of the families pumped water from wells by hand; only four per cent of the families had running water in their homes. Sixty-nine per cent had kitchen sinks, only 12 per cent had a bathtub or shower and only three per cent had flush toilets. All but 11 per cent of the homes had a power or hand operated washing machine. The majority of the homes did not have any refrigeration facilities.



The level of living of the families was measured by a socio-economic scale. Their average level of living score was 18.6 out of a total possible score of 27. The families who had the higher level of living scores allocated a smaller proportion of their total cash expenditures to food than the families who had the lower scores.

Most community facilities and services were readily available. Eighty-five per cent of the homes were located adjacent to a gravel road and all the homes were within walking distance of a grade school. High schools were farther away; the average distance was nine miles. Only 13 per cent of the homes were more than five miles from a church. The average distance to a doctor was eight miles and to a hospital, 13 miles.

The families spent much of their spare time in their homes. Most of the family reading was confined to newspapers and periodicals. Fifty-three per cent of the housewives reported that they spent an average of four or more hours per week reading and 50 per cent of their husbands devoted this much time to reading. Only 11 per cent of the families reported that they obtained books from a library.

Thirty-eight per cent of the families did not participate in any organization. At least one member in the remaining families belonged to one or more organizations and many of them held executive positions.

Nearly every family had attended church during the year; 53 per cent had attended more than 20 times. In most cases the whole family attended church at the same time.

Only seven per cent of the housewives stated that they would rather live in a town or city than on a farm. The remainder preferred farm life and many of them believed that a farm was a better place than a town or city for bringing up children. Others felt that farm life offered security which could not be found elsewhere. Many of the housewives were of the opinion that farm life would be greatly improved if their homes were equipped with modern conveniences.

APPENDIX

Table 1.- Items Used in Level of Living Scale

Item	Level of Living Score
1. House construction:	1
(1) Brick, stone, frame (stucco), frame (painted or brick veneer), or frame (stained shingle)	0
(2) All other types of construction, such as frame (unpainted or unstained shingle), or log:	1
2. Rooms per person:	0
(1) One or more rooms per person	1
(2) Less than one room per person	0
3. Storm windows:	1
(1) For some or all windows	0
(2) None	1
4. Basement:	1
(1) Full or part basement with concrete or stone walls and floor	0
(2) Full or part basement with earth walls and floor, or no basement	1
5. Heating system:	0
(1) Furnace or space heater in basement	1
(2) Space heater in room, or kitchen stove only source of heat	0
6. Lighting:	1
(1) Electricity, or gasoline, or kerosene mantle lamps	0
(2) Wick lamps only	1
7. Cistern:	0
8. Pumping system:	1
(1) Running water, or power or hand operated pump at well	0
(2) No pumping system	

Item	Level of Living Score
9. Kitchen sink	1
10. Bathroom	1
11. Washing machine:	
(1) power operated machine	1
(2) hand operated washer, or no washing machine	0
12. Telephone	1
13. Clothes closets:	
(1) One or more	1
(2) None	0
14. Dining room (in additon to a kitchen)	1
15. Dining room table, buffet, or china cabinet	1
16. Chesterfield, davenport, or lounge	1
17. Easy chair	1
18. Bookcase or desk	1
19. Books:	
(1) Ten or more books, excluding school books	1
(2) Less than ten books	0
20. Piano	1
21. Floor construction:	
(1) Hardwood or softwood flooring throughout all or part of the house	1
(2) Rough flooring only	0
22. Kitchen floor finish:	
(1) Linoleum	1
(2) All other types of finish, or unfinished	0

